

Prospectus for Econ 0200

Course ID and 7-digit Number: ECON 0200-001 and ECON 0200-002

Course Description and Level

ECON 0200 is the first course in macroeconomics and the second course in Economics for undergraduate students. Macroeconomics studies the aggregate behavior of the economy. In the first part of the course, students will learn how to measure economic performance and the meaning of terms such as GDP, unemployment, and inflation. The main focus of this course will subsequently be the models that attempt to explain the determination of national output. We will examine the long-run growth of national income as well as the short-run fluctuations in national income (i.e., recessions and booms). Throughout the course we will explore how government policies can influence the performance of the economy. This semester we will have a new portion of the course attempting to look into inequality and Covid19 and the Macroeconomy.

This course fulfills one Curriculum requirement for the Society Sector in the College of A&S. Hence, this course should “enable students to develop concepts and principles, test theories, and perfect tools that can be used to interpret, explain and evaluate the behavior of human beings in contemporary societies.”

Class Structure for Fall 2024

In-Person Sessions Planned

- Regular lecture on Monday and Wednesday at the schedule and locations posted in the official Penn Course Roster website. These lectures will be recorded and uploaded in Canvas after the lectures are over.
- Almost weekly assignments to be delivered through Cengage/Aplia. Need a courseware for this, not just the book.
- Weekly practice quizzes (not for credit) and also for credit quizzes in recitations based on completion.
- Weekly discussions, Q&A and an exercise within the standard recitations time with the TAs. Attendance will be taken. If not in attendance the quiz will not count either.
- Zoom or in person OH with me and potentially all the members of the teaching team (times TBA).
- Review sessions before the exams.
- In class exams.
- Asynchronous Activities:
 - As said, Zoom Lectures will be available, Zoom review sessions before the exams will be recorded as well.
 - It is NOT going to be possible to follow live classes via Zoom.
 - Recitations will NOT be recorded.
 - Weekly online assignments in Cengage/Mindtap/Aplia.
- What does a typical week in Econ 2 look like?
Monday morning at 8am: a weekly digest is sent out on the “Announcements” section in Canvas with the plan for the week. This will provide guidance to students as to what to do and what is going on for the whole week in the course. Lecture materials (pdf documents or similar) are posted in the modules portion of Canvas. This material will usually cover the whole week (Monday and Wednesday lectures).

Monday and Wednesday at officially announced lecture time: In person lectures pertaining the class material and the relevant textbook chapter(s) are held. It is not going to be possible to follow the lectures live via Zoom but they will be recorded.

Monday afternoon: the almost weekly Cengage assignment pertaining the material for the week is posted. This is typically due on Monday night by 11:59pm through Cengage (companion website for which you will need a subscription). You have a lot of time to complete this. Please do not miss the deadline.

Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning: the material (exercises and possibly articles to read) for the weekly recitations is posted. You should attempt working on those at some point prior to when your recitation occurs.

Thursday and Friday (usual scheduled time as per course roaster): You will have a in person-meeting recitation with your TA during which time you will be engaging in active learning discussions related to Macro or problem-solving for some of the exercises posted in the recitation material. Quizzes with 4 or 5 MC will be given for students to practice during these sessions as well. The quizzes will be graded for completion not accuracy.

By the weekend: the suggested solutions for the recitation exercises contained in the recitation material with step by step instructions are posted. Slides of the recitations (if available) will be posted.

Outline of Assignments & Assessments

- There will be 3 midterms in class exams, 11 (Cengage) assignments, 11-12 recitation MC quizzes and attendance credit. No final exam.
- Points value for assignments & assessments and exam dates will be detailed in the syllabus.

Essential Course Policies

- The official prerequisite for this Econ 0200 course is Econ 0100. This is a hard prerequisite. There are no exceptions to this Departmental requirement. You cannot take Econ 100 and Econ 200 concurrently.
- Required textbook: N. Gregory Mankiw: "Principles of Macroeconomics", Cengage, 9th edition. You can opt to have an electronic copy of the book with your Mindtap/Cengage (companion website for assignments) subscription. This is a cheaper option than buying the hardcopy of the textbook and the access to Mindtap separately. There is also the option of Cengage Unlimited if you have multiple classes that adopt Cengage products.